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Taxpayers and local businesses are still owed thousands

F1 TEAM LEFT A TRAIL OF DEBT

Gill Oliver and Ben Holgate
news@nqo.com

COLLAPSED Banbury-based F1 team Marussia has cancelled the final auction of its remaining assets, due to be held today.

Spokesman for Marussia administrator FRP Advisory James Rossiter said it had "been halted to allow for discussions to continue with a third party".

He added: "Given the confidential nature of the negotiations under way, we are unable to provide further details."

Items scheduled for sale included Marussia's three race cars for the 2014 season, minus their engines, plus about 70 tonnes of trackside kit.

American businessman Gene Haas, who co-owns a Nascar racing team, was reported to have bid for some of Marussia's assets during a two-day online auction of the F1 team's assets last December.

He is thought to be planning to launch an F1 team in 2016, possibly with some operations in Abingdon.

This week it was revealed Marussia's collapse has left Oxfordshire taxpayers tens of thousands of pounds out of pocket.

Cherwell District Council is one of 27 local creditors named in official documents filed at Companies House.

The authority is listed as being owed almost £57,000 in unpaid business rates for four units in the town. But a spokesman for the council said the figure was no longer accurate as they were recalculating the bill.

Another £110,000 is outstanding across the county, much of it to small firms still owed money by struggling Leaffield-based F1 team Caterham, which called in administrators in October, making 230 staff redundant.

They were good customers of ours, but no-one is naive enough to think these back-of-the-grid teams will last forever

Prestige Engineering co-director
Tony Barnes



Prestige Engineering staff, left to right, co-director Tony Barnes, David Smith, apprentice Adrian Jeacock, Andy Smith, and co-director Jim Tansley

Picture: OX72050 Mark Hemsworth

Marussia's biggest creditor – owed £61,372 – is GP2 Motorsport, which runs the GP2 series, once based in Tackley.

Others include Bicester-based, family-owned SRD Engineering, owed more than £15,000 by Marussia.

Henley marketing and promotion firm Rush Group is owed £10,000 and Banbury-based Prestige Engineering £5,385

Prestige Engineering co-director Tony Barnes said: "They were a good customer of ours but no one is naive enough to think these back-of-the-grid teams will last forever, so we were aware there was a finite time we would be working for them."

Mr Barnes and co-director Jim Tansley said working for Caterham and Marussia was worth £100,000 a year to them.

Caterham owes the firm £3,000 in unpaid bills, Mr Barnes said.

He added: "We have a good customer base but it's a big hole in our turnover to fill."

Father-and-son Les and Tim Edge, who run Edge Signs at Banbury's Beaumont Centre, have been left almost £2,000 out of pocket for graphics

painted on to lorries and racing cars.

Les Edge said: "When I think of those who worked at Marussia who lost their jobs weeks before Christmas, I can't get too cross about our situation. But as a small, family firm it hurts to lose the money."

Cherwell District Council, spokeswoman Jemma Callow said: "The council attempts to recover all debts owed but also makes provisions as a proportion of bad debt is likely."

The amount outstanding in Oxfordshire is a tiny fraction of Marussia's £31.4m liabilities.



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Although we strive to avoid errors, some may slip through the net. If you find an error of fact, please write to the Editor, Simon O'Neill at Newspaper House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0EJ, or telephone him on 01865 425450. It is our policy to correct mistakes where it is appropriate.



The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2010 was 77.4%

Young girl 'brainwashed' into having sex with gang

Joe Nimmo

jnimm@nqo.com

A GIRL who said she had underage sex with a group of men told a jury she had been "brainwashed" and thought they "were my friends".

The alleged victim gave evidence at Oxford Crown Court this week in the trial of seven men accused of grooming and sexually exploiting eight girls in the Banbury area between 2011 and 2013.

The group – said to be known as BB or B2 – is accused of identifying girls by organising parties for under-18s called "Fiddy Events" that included gang rape.

Prosecutors allege offences happened in vehicles, homes, parks and woods around Banbury and King's Sutton.

Ahmed Hassan-Sule, 21, of Glyndebourne Gardens; Said Saleh, 20, of Orchard Way; Mohamed Saleh, 21, of Orchard Way; Takudzwa Hova, 21, of Broughton Road; Kagiso Manase, 26, of Warwick Road; and Alexandru Nae, 19, of Broome Way, and a 17-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, deny all charges.

The girl told the jury she was 13 or 14 when she had sex with Hassan-Sule, Mohamed Saleh and Said Saleh in a park.

Michael Magarian QC, barrister for Hassan-Sule, asked her last week: "Why didn't you complain to the police about it?"

She said: "I thought that they liked

me. I thought they were my friends, that they wouldn't do that."

Later he asked: "When you were 13 and 14 were you going around pretending that you were a little bit older? We have been provided with some intelligence by the police that you and [another complainant] were going around saying you were older than you were."

The girl replied: "No we weren't." Mark Gatley, the barrister for Nae, asked about her claim that his client had raped another girl while she was in the room. He said: "There was no screaming, no crying, nothing of that nature?"

The witness said: "She was just quiet and just looking at the ceiling. She was blank."

The barrister said: "I want to suggest to you that if you thought she was being raped you would have helped her."

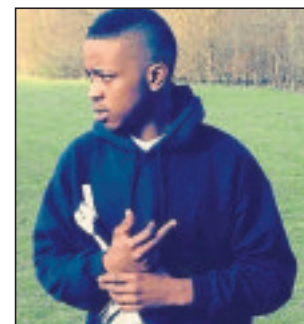
She told him: "They made me think it was normal. They brainwashed me to make me think it was normal, what was happening."

The defendants deny 26 charges, including 19 counts of sexual activity with a child, two counts of causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity, three counts of rape and two counts of sexual assault.

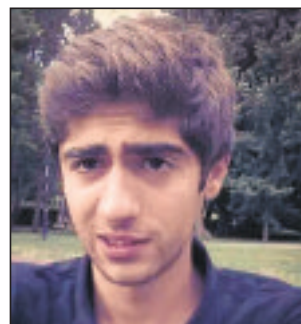
The trial continues.



On trial: Said Saleh



Takudzwa Hova



Alexandru Nae



Ahmed Hassan-Sule

Super-council debate rebuke

OXFORDSHIRE'S district councils have united in rebellion against fresh calls to abolish them in favour of a single super-council.

Oxfordshire County Council leader Ian Hudspeth has revealed a new report that says savings of up to £33m a year could be made by combining all six councils in the county.

The report put the cost of reorganisation at £16m.

Mr Hudspeth also said it could lead to reductions in rates for council taxpayers and would protect stretched frontline services from further cuts.

But within 12 hours of his call for debate, every other council in Oxfordshire had ruled out a single unitary authority.

In a damning joint statement, the leader of Cherwell District Council, Barry Wood, as well as the leaders of West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse district councils dismissed the report as "error-strewn".

They said: "It has been written using high-level assumptions and having no regard to actual service delivery arrangements on the ground."

"Even a cursory review of the figures indicates the savings are vastly overstated and the costs of implementation significantly understated."

"In an attempt to sweeten the electorate, there is a proposal to bring council tax down."

"However even these figures are fundamentally flawed, exposing the report for what it is: error-strewn."

Bob Price, leader of Oxford City Council, also denounced the document and said the decision to



Cherwell leader Barry Wood

spend £40,000 on commissioning it was "scandalous".

Mr Price said: "The county council is in a difficult financial position because of cuts imposed by the Government and this is just a desperate way it is trying to raid the resources of the districts."

The 46-page report – produced by international audit firm Ernst & Young – was needed to help the county council find a "game-changer" for budget savings, Mr Hudspeth said.

Mr Hudspeth added: "This is not a 'bid' for unitary status."

"We're starting a debate."

"There are three possible scenarios in the report, there may be other options to explore."

"As senior politicians and council officers in Oxfordshire it is our duty to calmly discuss those and any others to get the most efficient services and highest levels of protection from cuts for Oxfordshire residents in future years."

At the moment, Oxfordshire has

a two-tier system of local government, with one county council operating alongside a city council and four district councils.

The county council is responsible for transport, schools, libraries, the fire service, trading standards, waste disposal, social care and public health across the whole of Oxfordshire.

The four district councils and the city council control leisure centres, rubbish collection and recycling, planning and council tax collections, including business rates, for their respective areas.

The county council plans to use 85 per cent of its £130m reserves over the next four years to plug funding gaps, despite already having planned £265m in cuts.

It must also find another £20m of savings, it revealed in December.

Mr Hudspeth acknowledged central government's position against local government reform, but said that could change after May's General Election.

He added: "If all the councils can agree then we can put our proposition to the Government."

"But it is important to have the facts in a debate like this and if people want to challenge them they can."

"Nothing should be ruled out if it provides better services and value for money."

Yet the district councils claimed an annual £70m budget shortfall in the county's books meant it was unlikely it would have funds to invest in a tax break.

Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet will meet to discuss the new report in County Hall, New Road, Oxford, at 2pm on Tuesday, January 27.

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An artist's impression of how the new 84,500 sq ft site at Banbury Point on Brookhill Way will look

Firm's expansion is boost for jobs

Around 50 new posts expected as cleaning equipment company moves to new site

Naomi Herring
nherring@nqo.com

ABOUT 50 new jobs are expected to be created as a global manufacturer of cleaning equipment expands its UK headquarters in Banbury.

German company Kärcher UK, which makes equipment such as high-pressure washers and vacuum cleaners, will move to a new 84,500 sq ft site at Banbury Point on Brookhill Way.

The new three-storey building will be nearly double the size of the existing site on Beaumont Road in Banbury.

Deputy town mayor and councillor for Grimsbury and Castle ward Margaret Cullip said: "If a business is expanding in Banbury it is welcome – and it is on an industrial estate so won't cause any disruption."

"It is good news that people are expanding in Banbury and if it means more jobs, even better."

The new premises will include offices, training facilities, a warehouse and workshop section.

It will also feature the town's first Kärcher shop, which is the third of its kind in the UK and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Managing director of Kärcher UK Simon Keeping said: "These are exciting times and this opportunity, afforded by the company's expansion, is testament to the quality inherent in Kärcher – not only of our products but of our team and its ethos too."

"In order to maintain continuity amidst our growth and retain key Kärcher knowhow, remaining near to our Banbury roots was crucial."

"The new site is only one mile from the old, albeit the environment will be very different."

The company, which celebrates its 80th birthday this year, has been based in Banbury since 1978.

It started with a team of just eight employees. The headquarters now employs almost 300 people in the area.

Kärcher said that the new expansion is expected to create over 50 jobs.

The overall investment value is £19m over three years, a figure

announced at the UK Investment Summit in Wales in November.

Landowners and developers AC Lloyd are working in partnership with Oxford-based Minns Network Developments on the project, with construction expected to start early this year according to Kärcher UK.

The new building, close to junction 11 of the M40, is due to be completed at the end of 2015.

AC Lloyd director Des Wynne said: "This is a highly prominent site close to the M40 and we are delighted to have attracted a global operator such as Kärcher UK as major occupier."

"The company is already a significant employer in the town. It is great that it has chosen to remain in Banbury, in what will be a bespoke building, which will serve a very wide range of uses and, through elements such as its expanded academy [training facilities], will bring new employment into the area."

"We are looking forward to creating a complex which will allow the company to continue to grow and thrive in the local area, and will be an asset to Banbury."

Woman charged with attempted murder

A WOMAN charged with the attempted murder of a patient at the Horton Hospital in Banbury has been bailed.

Julia Knight, 55, of Sycamore Drive, Banbury, was charged on Thursday and appeared on Friday at Banbury Magistrates' Court.

The charge states that on October 7, 2014, at the Horton

General Hospital she attempted to murder Irene Robson.

It has been confirmed that Knight is not an employee at the hospital.

Knight was bailed on condition she is under a daily curfew between 9pm and 9am daily, must wear an electronic tag, must not contact Irene Robson or Trevor Charles

directly or indirectly.

In addition, she must not enter West Bar Surgery or Sainsbury's in Banbury or contact their staff, must not go to Southerndown Care Home in Chipping Norton or anywhere else Irene Robson may be living and must not apply for, or take employment in any nursing or care position.

New 'honesty' policy for doctors

ABOUT 700 patients will be told about mistakes that have led to harm under new national rules, county hospital bosses have said.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (OUHT) managers estimate 694 people a year will be told under "duty of candour" rules.

These were brought in by the Care Quality Commission in the wake of poor care at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust.

It puts a legal duty on trusts "to inform and apologise to patients if there have been mistakes in their care that have led to harm".



Tony Berendt: 'This has far-reaching implications'

Dr Tony Berendt, OUHT medical director, told board members in a report: "The duty of

candour will have far reaching implications for all staff in terms of understanding the nature of incidents the definitions of harm and the level of support that can be offered to the individual affected by the incident."

Actions needed by staff include reviewing education and how incidents are recorded, he said.

The CQC has said the duty, introduced on November 27, "is an important step towards ensuring there is an open, honest and transparent culture – particularly when things go wrong".

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Police issue warning over courier scam

COURIER fraudsters targeted 43 people in Cherwell in 2014 and have already conned an elderly man out of £10,000 this year.

Thames Valley Police said there were 37 attempts and six successful courier frauds in 2014 and three attempts and one successful fraud this month.

Courier fraud is where a victim is asked by someone, pretending to be from a bank or the police, to withdraw money. The fraudster then hires a courier or taxi to pick up the money.

The most recent successful fraud targeted a man in his 80s living in Bretch Hill, Banbury.

He was contacted at about 4.30pm on Thursday, January 8 by a man claiming to be a detective inspector at Leighton Buzzard police station.

The victim was told his card had been cloned and had been used to purchase items totalling £3,700.

The fraudster phoned the victim the next day and said police had put counterfeit money

into his bank accounts as part of an investigation.

He told the victim to withdraw £5,000 from two accounts and a courier picked up the £10,000 from the victim's house later that day.

Det Sgt James Bonner said: "This type of crime is sickening and deliberately targets the elderly and vulnerable, who are often duped into handing over their life savings. It is vital that members of the public are aware of this re-emerging scam."



Gary Glitter appearing at Southwark Crown Court in London, where he is accused of a string of historic sex offences against three girls
Picture: Elizabeth Cook/PA Wire

Glitter 'assaulted girl after pop gig'

Ex-glam rock star is facing multiple charges for string of alleged attacks on girls

By Nina Massey
news@nqo.com

FORMER singer Gary Glitter, originally from Banbury, tried to rape a schoolgirl, plied another with champagne before assaulting her and abused a young fan in his dressing room, a court heard.

He attempted to rape a girl under 10 after creeping into her bed, but she managed to escape by moving away and falling into a protective "cocoon" of sheets and blankets, jurors were told.

John Price QC, opening the case for the prosecution at Southwark Crown Court on Monday, said Glitter – real name Paul Gadd – had tried to force himself on the girl in the mid-1970s.

It is alleged that the day after the attack, Glitter acted as if nothing had happened.

About four years later, the former chart-topper is said to have pounced on the youngster again, pushing her onto a bed after asking for a "cuddle".

Although the alleged victim confided in her mother and friends, it was more than two decades before she went to police

with her claims, after seeing that the singer had admitted child pornography charges in 1999, the court heard.

Mr Price said: "It encouraged her [the alleged victim] to report to the police what she says he had done to her."

Glitter is also accused of molesting two "young fans" whom he met while touring the country.

In each case, the girls are said to have first met the singer in his dressing room after a concert that their mothers took them to.

The similarities stretched to each girl initially being introduced to Glitter in the presence of her mother, and the mother then being persuaded to leave her daughter alone with him, jurors heard.

One woman claims she was just 12 when Glitter plied her with champagne and then assaulted her after one of his 1977 concerts in a Leicester club called Baileys.

After the second performance she is said to have gone with her mother to Glitter's dressing room, before both of them were invited to his Holiday Inn suite.

Mr Price told jurors: "It was there, her mother having been taken elsewhere, that she says he subjected her to a prolonged episode of sexual abuse involving a full range of sexual activity culminating in intercourse, prior to which he plied her with alcohol."

Jurors also heard that the teenager was subjected to a similar

ordeal in a Birmingham hotel room when she was 13 years old.

Mr Price continued that there was no doubt that the woman, now 50, attended the concerts and that she had provided photos of her at the event.

Glitter's alleged third victim was also attacked backstage after one of his performances in Watford.

A newspaper advert shows he performed at the venue in October 1979 when the girl was aged just 13, jurors heard.

Glitter is accused of one count of attempted rape and another of indecent assault on a girl under the age of 13 in 1975.

In relation to a second complainant, he is charged with four counts of indecent assault when she was under the age of 13 in 1977.

He is also accused of plying the girl with alcohol with the intention to "stupefy or overpower" her to have sex with him between January and May 1977.

And Glitter faces one charge of unlawful intercourse with a girl aged under 13 between the same dates in relation to the same girl.

In connection with a third complainant, who was under the age of 16, he is charged with two counts of indecent assault between October 1979 and December 1980.

Glitter, 70, from Marylebone, London, denies the charges.

The trial continues.

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Jailed over sexual abuse

Judge gives man four years in prison and says victims were treated "grotesquely"

By Joe Nimmo
joe.nimmo@nqo.com

A 22-YEAR-OLD man has been jailed for the "deeply humiliating" and "utterly wrong" sexual abuse of three teenage girls.

Michael Rowan, formerly of Banbury but now living in Thornleigh Road, Bristol, was told on Wednesday last week by a judge at Oxford Crown Court that he had "grotesquely" abused his victims.

He had pleaded guilty to a total of 20 offences – 18 counts of engaging in sexual activity with a child, one count of causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity and one count of making indecent images of children.

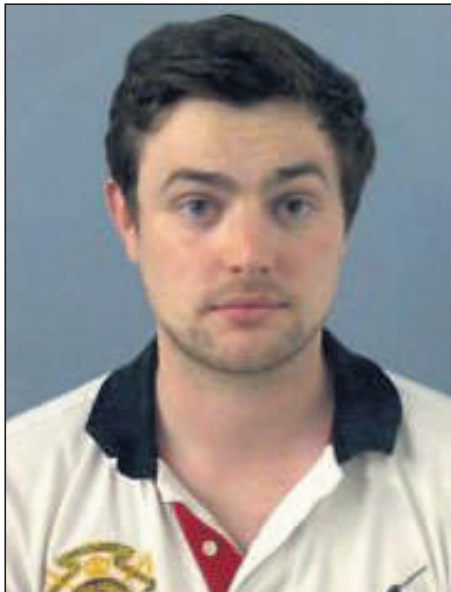
Graham Smith, prosecuting, said Rowan's crimes were committed between 2009 and 2013 in Banbury.

He told Judge Ian Pringle that all three were girls when the abuse started, and two had sex with the defendant on a number of occasions.

Mr Smith said the girl who was abused for the longest period – between 2010 and 2013 – was tied up, gagged and told to wear a dog collar during the abuse.

He said: "She describes how she was controlled by him, and did anything he asked her to do.

"She realises now that she was



Michael Rowan was given a four-year prison sentence



Judge Ian Pringle told Rowan his actions were 'utterly wrong'

emotionally manipulated and she did things that she should never have done. She feels that she was this defendant's puppet."

Alexandra Ball, defending, said her client was deeply ashamed of what he had done.

She said: "There is a distinction to be had between the teenager who committed these offences, and the

young man who stands in court today. He was having difficulties at home, there were some issues between himself and his father. There was some violence about three or four times a year. But it was severe.

"His older brother also bullied him significantly from a very early age."

Judge Pringle told Rowan that in the case of the victim who had

suffered the most abuse it must be "deeply humiliating" to think about what he made her do. He said: "Even at only 17 or 18, you must have known that what you were doing to those young people was utterly wrong."

Rowan was sentenced to four years in prison and was made subject to an indefinite sexual offences prevention order.

Downton star in boost for charity

A BANBURY charity is hosting a fundraising evening with Downton Abbey actress Lesley Nicol at the town hall on Bridge Street.

The actress, who plays Mrs Patmore in the popular drama, will be interviewed about her work in film, television and stage by Banbury actor John Arthur.

The event will take place on Saturday, February 7 and is organised by Banbury and District Samaritans who provide emotional support across Banbury in person, by phone, by email and by text.

The talk will start at 7.30pm and tickets are £10 which can be booked via 01295 811583 or judy.e.owen@btinternet.com

Teenagers bailed in burglary case

THREE teenage boys arrested on suspicion of burglary have been bailed until February 25, police have said.

Thames Valley Police said it has bailed a 16-year-old, 17-year-old and 18-year-old after a burglary in Banbury.

It said an iPad in a red hardback case, an iPhone 4S in a pink floral case and cash were stolen from a property in Dorchester Grove.

The theft took place between 12.45am and 4.30am on Monday, January 12, after offenders entered the property through an unlocked door.

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Shoplifter hunt

Police search for man who allegedly stole cat food from a local store

By Alex Wynick
awynick@nqo.com

POLICE have released CCTV images of six people they want to speak to in connection with separate incidents of shoplifting at shops in Bicester and Banbury.

The force said a woman went into a Bassett Avenue Co-Op store at about 6.50pm on December 7, chose bottles

of alcohol and left without paying.

On the same day they said three women took £400 worth of meat from the Barberr Place branch.

Thames Valley Police said they hid the meat and left without paying at about 5.40pm.

Two days later, on December 9, they said cat food was stolen from a Co-Op store in Banbury.

Police said the Ferriston store was targeted by a man who stole a box of cat food at about 4.30pm.

In a separate incident Lynx mens' cosmetics products worth about £112 were stolen from a Wilkinson shop in Bicester.

Police said a woman took the items at about 6pm on Wednesday, January 7, at the Market Square store.

The force only released information about the thefts last Wednesday and did not say if the thefts were connected.



CCTV image released by Thames Valley Police

Five due in court over cash machine charge

FIVE men were charged after a cash machine was allegedly stolen from a Morrisons store in Banbury.

The alleged break-in was between 3.30am and 5am on December 8 in South Bar Street.

Police charged six men with conspiracy to commit a burglary with intent to steal.

John Cooper, 42, of London Road, Ruscombe, Reading was charged, along with Benjamin Eastwood, 22, of Stock Lane, Ingatstone, Essex and Scott Liddiard, 44, of Moors Avenue, Cheltenham.

Jimmy Loveridge, 22, of Chertsey Road, Chobham, Woking, Surrey was also charged.

Clinton Bowen, 33, of Caledonian Road, Matson, Gloucester was also charged with criminal damage.

They will all appear at Guildford Crown Court on March 5.

Recycling prizes up for grabs as council aim to blitz estate

A BANBURY estate is set to be blitzed in a council clean-up this month to help residents go green in 2015.

Cherwell District Council cleaning teams will target the Bretch Hill estate in Banbury in a bid to remove litter, graffiti and dog mess. Flytipped items and abandoned cars will also be cleared.

Cherwell's lead member for clean and green, Tony Iltott, said: "Bretch Hill is one of our largest and busiest estates and as such, sometimes it needs a little bit more attention to get it gleaming."

"Our officers will be working hard to blitz the streets, parks and verges but we want residents to get on board and show their support."

The clean-up will run from Monday to January 30 and will also see residents who

put out blue or brown bins entered to win prizes including a blue bin, a bag of compost or a year's supply of compostable liners.

Mr Iltott said: "For everyone who puts a blue or brown bin out for collection we will automatically enter them in a prize draw to win some goodies. This will just go to show that recycling is not only easy and good for the environment, sometimes it pays too."

During the blitz, residents will also be eligible to buy discounted recycling bins at £10 and register for free bulky waste collection of up to three items.

On Wednesday, January 28, a recycling roadshow will be offering advice to residents from 3pm to 5pm at Bradley Arcade car park.

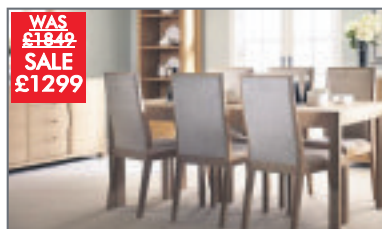
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Reality TV star will help boost charity fundraiser

Couple hope event in memory of young son will push them past £70,000 target

Naomi Herring
nherring@nqo.com

A REALITY TV star is set to appear at an annual fundraiser put together by a Banbury couple in memory of their son.

Dee Kelly, who is nicknamed "White Dee" and was made famous by appearing in Channel 4's Benefits Street, will be helping to raise funds at the family event.

Luke Froude, 34, and Gemma Froude, 33, will host the fifth Finnley's Day fundraiser which is hoped will reach the fundraising target of over £70,000.

The event at Banbury Town Hall will include face painting, a bouncy castle, craft stalls and a visit from Frozen's Elsa.

The Channel 4 star will be helping with the raffle, which has over £4,000 worth of prizes

thanks to donations from local and national businesses.

The couple started fundraising after losing their son in June 2010.

Finnley Froude was born 12 weeks premature weighing 1lb 4oz and cared for in the neo-natal intensive care unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

The youngster later died aged 18 weeks after catching an infection.

Every year since the couple, who have been married for 12 years, have staged the event and raised nearly £63,000 for charity so far.

All funds raised by the duo go to hospital-based charity SSNAP, Support for Sick Newborns and their Parents.

The fundraiser will be held from 9am to 5pm at the town hall in Bridge Street.

More information can be found at facebook.com/Froude



Gemma and Luke Froude, with a picture of their baby son Finnley

Job fairs offer businesses an opportunity to recruit for free

BUSINESSES in Cherwell looking for new employees are being encouraged to advertise for free at the district's job fairs.

Cherwell District Council is running events in Banbury and Bicester on March 13 and April 29 and are looking for employers to take part.

There is space for 30 employers and businesses at each of the fairs.

Norman Bolster, lead member for economic development, said: "At our last job fairs in September and October we had a record turnout of both employers and jobseekers at the events in Banbury and Bicester."

"These events are all about strengthening the local economy by promoting local jobs to local people. "By bringing everyone together under one roof we are giving job seekers and employers a unique opportunity to find out more about each other in the hope of achieving our end goal of getting the right people into the right roles to benefit all concerned."

Last year 244 people and 28 organisations attended the Banbury job fair.

Bicester also celebrated a record turnout with 120 people turning out to learn more about 250 jobs being promoted by 31 employers

Employers can reserve a space at the fairs by calling 01295 221863 or by emailing info@banburyjobclub.com or info@bicesterjobclub.com



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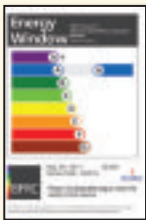
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Hospital set to have vital new scanner

Ageing machine will be replaced as trust agrees £1.9m outlay

By Oliver Evans
oliver.evans@nqo.com

A KEY hospital scanner is to be replaced after a senior director warned the ageing machine was putting patient safety at risk.

Paul Brennan said the "increasingly unreliable" CT scanner at Oxford's John Radcliffe was leading to cancelled appointments and patient backlogs.

It is used to diagnose patients' conditions, including those with a planned overnight stay and those who attend A&E.

The 13-year-old scanner and another are used for 75 per cent of all CT scans at the hospital, currently 21,500 a year and set to rise to 36,500 by 2020.

The older scanner will be replaced by a £1.9m

machine which Mr Brennan said will be more reliable, provide higher-quality images and emit less radiation.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust board members agreed the proposal by Mr Brennan, its director of clinical services.

The current machine "will become increasingly unreliable, leading to inpatient bed pressures, multiple patient cancellations" and missed waiting targets, the board heard.

In the last year the scanner was not used for 16 days because of unplanned work to install two new X-ray tubes, he said.

Mr Brennan estimated 500 appointments were cancelled or re-scheduled as a result and radiology

leaders recommend scanners are changed after seven years.

He said both scanners serving the emergency department have broken down, meaning patients were sent to neuroradiology. This led to delays "potentially reducing survival rates in critically ill patients".

He said failing to replace the scanner could add to waiting time concerns in A&E.

Last week, the Oxford Mail reported the trust recorded its worst quarterly A&E waiting times since it was formed in 2011.

From October to December, 86.1 per cent of patients were discharged, admitted or transferred within four hours of arrival. The target is 95 per cent.

Mr Brennan also said a backlog of 30 patients a day would develop if the scanner was not replaced.

Only light snowfall for county



Chipping Norton got a light dusting of snow. This is a view looking south from the A44, near Bliss Mill

LIGHT coverings of snow have fallen on Chipping Norton over the past week.

Residents woke to the white scenes on Saturday after of mild snowfall for town centres and up to one centimetre in more rural

areas of the county.

According to the latest Met Office forecast, Banbury, Bicester and Chipping Norton were all due to wake up to light snow yesterday morning.

The Met Office has issued an

alert for cold weather.

Temperatures for tonight are expected to fall to -1 degrees centigrade. But warmer weather is on the way, with the mercury predicted to top 6C during the day tomorrow.

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Not too long ago, many of us were guilty of thinking of our cats as just smaller versions of pet dogs.

After all - they are both mammals that we keep as domesticated pets - so surely they can't be that different, can they? Well - actually - they really can! Thankfully, attitudes are now swiftly changing because our understanding and the depth of our knowledge about our feline companions has improved dramatically. We now know cats are not just small dogs, they are unique beings with varied and individual needs. So what does this actually mean for our pets, day-to-day? Well, it means we need to celebrate and embrace the individuality of our feline companions in order to best cater for their unique requirements.

Domestication - Feline is Very Different to Canine

Unlike the dog, only 12,000 years ago there were no domestic cats and only around 30 species of wildcats. Even now, "domestic" cats could live fully independent lives if absolutely necessary. For our cats, this means they are just not domesticated on the same scale as the dog, who would not cope well without its owner's full-time guidance and support.

However, cats are well on their way to increased levels of domestication. Around 8000 years ago, there was a distinct genetic split between the DNA of wildcats and that of domestic cats. We now know that today's domestic cat is capable of social behaviour - not only towards other cats but also towards humans. However, our pet cats are only able to display this sociability once their basic needs have been met (e.g. once they know they have access to water, food and safe places to shelter, hide and toilet).

So today's pet cats are still solitary and territorial at heart but once they know their resources are guaranteed they can express their social traits. Ultimately, what this means is a cat needs a sense of security before it can express its emotions. On the contrary, a pet dog in an unfamiliar situation would look for human contact first, to ask for help to meet its needs - thus showing a level of domestication we do not yet see in our feline companions.

Specific Nutritional Requirements

Not only are cats at a unique stage in the domestication process, nutritionally, cats have truly individual needs as well. Cats are highly specialised carnivores. Unlike the dog, cats could not survive on a vegetarian diet and they have requirements for specific amino acids (found in proteins) that are much narrower than a dog's requirements.

Until nutritionally complete feline diets came onto the pet food market, cats were not fully catered for by humans and still had to hunt in order to fulfil their demanding nutritional needs. This is one of the reasons why many domestic cats still have their natural drive to hunt today - not all that long ago it was still a necessary survival technique for them.

Your Cat's Amazing Physicality

Cats also have many anatomical adaptations that allow them unique flexibility and a physicality just not seen in most other mammals. One of these interesting adaptations includes a lack of the collar bone, meaning the cat's forelegs have no bony attachment to their skeleton. This is partly why the cat is so flexible (and good at balancing on narrow fence panels without falling off)! Another example of feline anatomical adaptation includes their retractable claws which are kept sharp by being sheathed unless the cat extends them in order to hunt or fight.

In Summary

Our cats are still making their own journey from their distant ancestral past, of a life of solitude and hunting, to the social lifestyle we, as owners, expect them to live today. No two cats are at the same stage along this journey at this moment in time, so for now, we need to offer support by allowing each cat to lead the life that best suits their individual personality. If any of this has inspired you to improve your own knowledge about cats and commit to doing the best for your cat, then why not take a look at www.catwyse.co.uk? It's full of free, interactive and inspiring advice from the feline experts - because here, at ROYAL CANIN®, we believe every cat deserves a "catwyse" owner.



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Q Is it best to feed my cat two fixed meals per day or can I leave her food down and let her graze on it all day?

A The correct answer really depends on how well your cat maintains her ideal body weight and whether or not you choose to feed her a wet or dry food. If your cat is lean, maintains her body weight well and is not prone to weight gain, it is ok to leave dry food down for her to graze on all day, as long as you don't continuously top the bowl up and only put down a measured daily ration once per day. If your cat is overweight, greedy or prone to weight gain, it is better to feed her 2 (or more) meals per day (that you have weighed out), to minimise the risk of her overeating, or eating all the food in one sitting and becoming hungry again towards the end of the day. If you feed wet food, spoilage can become an issue, so you should pick up and dispose of anything that your cat doesn't eat after the first hour, regardless.

Q Surely all pet foods cannot differ too much - why can't I feed my dog and cat the same diet?

A We would never recommend feeding your cat a diet designed for dogs, or vice versa. Cats have much more specific nutritional requirements than dogs and they are strict carnivores. If you feed a cat dog food you risk causing serious nutritional deficiencies. If you feed a dog cat food in the majority of cases the food will contain more protein (and often also more fat) than the dog actually requires. We would always recommend sticking to a specific diet designed for each pet's species and age.

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Blaze: Council offers help

Cherwell pledges support to neighbours after offices are destroyed by an inferno

Pete Hughes
pete.hughes@nqo.com

CHERWELL District Council has pledged support to its counterparts in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse after a fire raged through a civic headquarters.

A 47-year-old man has been charged over a series of alleged arson attacks which destroyed council offices in South Oxfordshire, a thatched cottage and a funeral home.

Andrew Main, of Rokemarsh, appeared at Oxford Magistrates' Court on Saturday.

He faces four charges in connection with three blazes on Thursday, which saw part of the £10m South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils' offices destroyed, and has been remanded in custody to appear at Oxford Crown Court on Friday, January 30.

Cherwell District Council has said it will offer help to the councils, which are now struggling to recover. About 70 staff have been working at the councils' Abingdon office, which normally caters for just 20.

Spokesman for Cherwell District Council Tony Ecclestone said: "Cherwell District Council has been in touch with South Oxford-



Fire crews at the councils' offices on Thursday

shire District Council to offer support following the fire and we are awaiting their response." More than 100 firefighters in 27 fire engines fought the blazes in the early hours of Thursday.

Jean Gladstone, 80, escaped unharmed when fire badly damaged her thatched cottage at Rokemarsh at 3.11am, and nine minutes later there

were blazes at the Howard Chadwick Funeral Service at Crowmarsh Gifford and the nearby council offices.

A further blaze damaged Roke Marsh Farm, Roke, which belongs to Main's father, Raymond Main.

The council base was wrecked after a car crashed into the reception area before an inferno engulfed the complex.



Council workers crammed into one room in Abingdon

Firefighters were at the council offices throughout Thursday.

Bomb disposal experts from 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment were called in after gas canisters were found in Rokemarsh.

Chief fire officer David Etheridge said on Thursday: "It would appear at this stage that gas cylinders were used at all of the incidents."

MPs decry action of terrorist group

COUNTY MPs spoke out in the Commons over "appalling violence" in Nigeria.

Conservative Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry said advances by militant Islamist group Boko Haram had led to "grotesque" killings, which have included suicide bombings.

And Tory Oxford West and Abingdon MP Nicola Blackwood spoke out of the "appalling violence" in Monday's debate.

Hugo Swire, the minister, replied on Monday: "I will not rehearse again all the assistance that we have given to Nigeria, particularly since June."

He said sexual violence is an "endemic problem".

Pupils' open day

PROSPECTIVE students are invited to a college open day.

Banbury & Bicester College is hosting open days to offer Year 10 and 11 students the chance to consider programmes for returning to study.

The Banbury open day will be next Wednesday, January 28, from 4pm to 7pm at the Broughton Road campus.

More information can be found at banbury-bicester.ac.uk/events

House is burgled

BURGLARS broke into a house in Neithrop Avenue, Banbury by forcing their way through a back door.

Police said the break-in was between 8am and 6pm last Friday, January 16.

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Nominations are still open for business

THERE is still time for nominations to be made for the Cherwell Business Awards 2015.

The event, now in its fourth year, showcases and celebrates the achievements of businesses, organisations and employees across the district.

Award categories include small business, customer service and innovation and creativity, and the deadline for nominations is Friday, January 30.

Cherwell's lead member for estates and the economy Norman Bolster said: "These awards provide an ideal opportunity to highlight the excellent businesses and organisations at the forefront of the economic recovery north Oxfordshire."

Cherwell District Council is sponsoring the Charity and Community Award at this year's event. He added: "The council's economic development strategy aims to recognise, celebrate and promote investment in the district and so we are proud to sponsor the charity and community category."

Entrants will be considered across ten categories on charitable aims, leadership influence, community involvement, staff commitments and their impact on disadvantaged groups. The finalists will be announced in March and the winners will be revealed at a gala dinner in May. Nominate at cherwellbusinessawards.co.uk/nominations



From left, Ben Halliwell, Lauren Halliwell, Bev Hepple and David Hepple at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock

Walkers step out to help fund a hospice

FUNDRAISERS stepped out on a chilly morning for the first Winter Walk on Sunday.

About 180 people gathered at Woodstock's Blenheim Palace for the first such event for Sobell House Hospice Charity.

Donning their warmest winter wear, families completed a four-mile circuit around the palace gardens.

Yvonne Winter, who travelled from Nuneham Courtenay to walk on behalf of niece and cancer

patient Tessa Clibbon, said: "The staff are kind, friendly people and give her a lot of help and support."

Walk leader Kevin Game said it costs about £4m a year to run the hospice and support about 3,000 patients.

Dog owners offered free tag for their pet

CHERWELL District Council is offering dog owners a free dog tag for their pet.

By completing an online form, owners will get an ID tag for the dog's collar. This will be a unique identification number which will bring up the owner's contact details when cross referenced at the council.

Register at tiny.cc/dogregistration

Donations flood in to help heart charity

A BANBURY shopping centre has collected 152 bags of donations in a bid to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation.

The Bag It. Beat It. event held at Castle Quay shopping centre in Castle Street saw hundreds of items donated by the community.

The donations will now be sold in British Heart Foundation shops across the area and could generate up to £2,700. The charity's area manager Jacqui Whitehall said: "The Banbury community has done fantastically well."

Theft from garage

TOOLS were stolen from a garage in Townsend, Barford-St-Michael at about 2pm on Friday, January 16, police said. Thames Valley Police said a man was seen wheeling tools away, but did not give any more information.

Tools stolen from van

THIEVES broke into a van parked in Sinclair Avenue, Banbury overnight between Thursday, January 15, and Friday, January 16 and stole tools, police said.

New £4m cash pot to pilot rural transport ideas

Council could use share of money to fund bus hubs and rail networks

By Callum Keown
callum.keown@nqo.com

A £4 MILLION cash pot set aside for transport in rural areas could help fund bus hubs and local rail networks.

The Department for Transport announced the money earlier this week to be used to "pilot new and better ways of delivering joined-up local transport in rural and isolated areas".

Oxfordshire County Council board member for transport David Nimmo Smith said the local authority was looking at bidding for some of the cash.

He said: "Of course we are going to bid for it. It's in embryonic stage at the moment and we need to assess what's achievable."

"It could be bus hubs; rural stations where buses come to that then link up with train stations. It's all about improving connectivity."

Mr Nimmo Smith admitted he did not know how far any potential share of the £4m would stretch.

Perran Moon, former chairman of Oxon School Bus Action Group, which campaigned against council revision of school bus provision last year, said the cash was just a "tactical pot of money for testing stuff".

He said: "Any investment in rural areas is desperately overdue. There have been significant cuts in rural transport and it's affecting communities."

"The issue that I would have is that it's not strategic. It's a tactical pot that has been announced rather than a joined up transport strategy. To announce this pot of money seems extremely carefully choreographed."

Mr Moon, who lives in Alkerton, near Banbury, said there are just two buses each day from the village to Banbury and Stratford-upon-Avon.

Transport Minister Baroness Kramer said: "It is common sense that we ensure those rural and isolated areas have vital transport services that meet the needs of communities. We must



David Nimmo Smith

ensure every penny is being used to get local people to hospitals, schools, towns and shops.

The county council will have to bid for a share of the money which it can use for feasibility studies and other groundwork to identify scope for providing services in local areas.

Successful bidders will then submit a detailed plan to the DfT for delivering the service they have identified a need for.

The new fund is only for rural and isolated urban areas and the closing date for bids is the February 11. The bid winners will be announced in March.

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A searing portrait of crime in violent 1980s New York

A Most Violent Year
15, 125mins

ACCORDING to statistics, 1981 was the most violent year in New York City history in relation to the population.

Over the 12 months, more than 1.2 million crimes were recorded including 60,000 aggravated assaults, 5,400 forcible rapes and 2,220 murders.

A crack epidemic had the city in a chokehold and Mayor Ed Koch seemed powerless to curb gang warfare and spiralling lawlessness on the subway system.

Writer-director JC Chandor, who was Oscar nominated for the 2012 thriller *Margin Call*, uses this turbulent period as a backdrop to his masterful and searing portrait of crime and brutal punishment.

Centred on a married couple, who are struggling to keep their heating oil distribution business afloat, *A Most Violent Year* powerfully conveys the personal and professional sacrifices of a devoted husband and wife, who become one of the shocking statistics.

The film's pacing is deceptively steady and slow, lulling us into a false sense of security as Chandor ups the stakes for his beautifully sketched characters, forcing them to take greater risks to protect their nearest and dearest.

Abel Morales (Oscar Isaac) owns a fleet of oil transport trucks that carry valuable fuel to customers across the city. He's a small player but hopes to expand by clinching a deal for property on the Brooklyn waterfront that will allow him to take delivery of oil from the river. Having put down 700,000 US dollars as a deposit, Abel has just 30 days to close the transaction or the vendor keeps the downpayment and can sell the land to a competitor.

Soon after, Abel learns that one of his trucks has been hijacked and the driver Julian (Elyes Gabel) has been badly beaten.

Union rep Bill O'Leary (Peter Gerety) asks Abel to allow the drivers to carry



Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain put in powerhouse performances in writer-director JC Chandor's taut film

unlicensed guns as a deterrent but the boss strongly objects, knowing it will take just one stray bullet to arouse the suspicions of the crusading Assistant District Attorney (David Oyelowo).

Threats to Abel's livelihood become personal, targeting his children and wife Anna (Jessica Chastain), whose gangster father used to own the firm.

"Let me deal with this," pleads Abel. "You better," she retorts. "Because you won't like what's going to happen once I start getting involved."

A Most Violent Year hits a sweet spot on every level, from Chandor's measured direction and lean script, to the powerhouse performances.

Isaac is mesmerising as an honourable man of substance, cutting through her husband's rose-tinted idealism with harsh home truths.

When oblivion beckons for Abel and Anna, we discover the true strength of their moral compasses in the face of the corruption and senseless bloodshed.

CakeWhat's on

MUSIC

01865 279125.

Thursday

Merton College Chapel, Merton Street, Oxford: Merton College Chapel Organ Recital series. Daniel Hyde plays the complete organ works by JS Bach. Free. 1.10pm.

Saturday

Headington Conservative Club, 60 windmill road, Headington: country and western. Country & western with Daniel Berry. £5. .30pm. 01865 439400.

Sunday

Jacqueline du Pre Music Building, St Hilda's College Cowley Place, Oxford: Family concert: Millbrook Ensemble. Rozzy & Mr Cello introduce the Millbrook Ensemble piano quartet: a special Cushion Concert. £5. 11am. 01865 286660. The Queen's College Chapel, High Street, Oxford: The Queen's College Organ Recitals. Tom Wilkinson (University of St Andrews) Free with a retiring collection. 1.10pm.

THEATRE

Saturday

Glee Club, hythe bridge street, Oxford: The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy. 7.15pm. Four brilliant comics from the top of the UK & International comedy circuit. £14.50. 0871 472 0400.

EVENTS

Friday

Rose & Crown Winter Beer Festival: Rose & Crown, Charlbury, Market St, Charlbury. Today and tomorrow. 22 different real ales. Choice of ciders and perry. Live music with Krissy Matthews on Saturday night. Hot food with proceeds going to Charlbury Riverside Festival. Noon. Free. 01608 810103.

Saturday

Black Panther: in conversation with

Aaron Dixon: East Oxford Community Centre, Princes St, Oxford. Aaron Dixon founded the Seattle branch of the Black Panther Party in his youth, developed the Free Breakfast Program for children which fed thousands of children, countered police brutality and developed global solidarity. The meeting will be followed by tasty Caribbean food from Taste of the Tropics from 6pm. 4pm. free/donation. Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally: Church Green, Witney. Public rally to express concerns about overdevelopment in Oxfordshire. Speakers are Peter Jay, former ambassador to the USA; Helen Marshall, County Director, CPRE; Duncan Enright, Labour; Stuart MacDonald, Green Party; Simon Strutt, UKIP Party; Andy Graham, LibDems Party; Clive Peedell. Leader, NHA Party. A crowd of anywhere from 500 to 1,000 is expected. 11am. Free. 01993 811126.



Jessica Chastain and Oscar Isaac in *A Most Violent Year*



Leam Howards gave Banbury an early lead at Dorchester

Banbury slip to sorry loss

Defender Meade sees red

BANBURY United had Joel Meade sent off as they lost 3-1 at fellow-strugglers Dorchester Town in Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division on Saturday.

The visitors took the lead on five minutes. Jordan Green's shot was saved, but Leam Howards knocked in the loose ball.

However, Banbury went down to ten men on 17 minutes when Meade was red-carded for fouling Ben Watson as he went through on goal.

Just six minutes later,

Dorchester Tn 3 Banbury Utd 1

Dorchester equalised when Dan Smith slotted home Watson's cross at the far post.

Two minutes later, Banbury keeper Leigh Bedwell was booked for bringing down Watson, who fired in the resultant penalty.

Dorchester sealed victory when Sam Lanahan made it 3-1 on 44 minutes. Banbury Utd: Bedwell, Cray, M Martin, Meade, Tappin, Ryan, Green, Westbrook, Howards (Eminoglu 73), Walkott, Whitehead. Subs not used: Browne, D Martin, White. Attendance: 433.

LATEST TABLE

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION										
Weymouth	24	17	3	4	50	31	54			
Poole Tn	23	17	2	4	39	14	53			
Redditch Utd	27	15	6	6	51	25	51			
Corby Tn	26	15	6	5	45	27	51			
Truro City	27	15	3	9	52	40	48			
Hungerford Tn	28	13	8	7	37	23	47			
Chesham Utd	28	12	10	6	53	34	46			
St Neots Tn	27	13	7	7	53	45	46			
Cirencester	28	12	9	7	53	34	45			
Hitchin Tn	29	13	6	10	49	41	45			
Dunstable Tn	29	12	5	12	49	45	41			
Slough Tn	26	10	8	8	45	44	38			
Chippenham	27	9	9	9	31	33	36			
Paulton Rov	29	9	8	12	47	48	35			
Cambridge C	27	7	10	10	40	41	31			
Bideford	27	9	4	14	46	62	31			
Biggleswade	27	7	8	12	38	49	29			
Histon	27	8	4	15	32	49	28			
Arlesey Tn	28	7	3	18	29	57	24			
Frome Tn	27	6	5	16	33	59	23			
Dorchester Tn	27	6	4	17	36	54	22			
Banbury Utd	27	4	7	16	28	60	19			
*Burnham	27	5	5	17	26	47	17			
Hereford Utd record expunged										

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Your journey has not been an easy one, but from Sunday you start to sail on calmer seas. You are not going to get support from everyone, but that is a fact you're willing to accept now, isn't it Aries? A drama from before Christmas approaches an end and you'll learn you were right to keep out of others' relationship issues. If indeed you did. Ring now so we can talk about your love life.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Do you put your heart on the line and risk getting hurt, or you do refuse to take a chance and live in misery? Come on Libra, why don't you see what it's like in the real world rather than hiding from your emotions as you have been since December. Venus promises you the experiences of a lifetime if you do. Ring now to hear why it's a great time for new beginnings.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

This is a really good time to invest your efforts and money into your dreams. People believe in you Taurus because they know how passionate you are about your plans. If you've been feeling shy, then now is the time to break down those barriers. Asking for the impossible becomes a possibility. Give me a ring now to hear why I think it's okay to embark on impulsive flirting this week.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Choose wisely this week Scorpio and don't allow yourself to be pushed into decisions which suit your close ones, but don't sit so well with you. You need to practice the fine art of communication if you are to feel you are an equal. Shock decisions you make on Friday can actually turn out to be the making of you. Believe in you. I do! Ring now for a confidence boost from the stars.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Don't rush through life this week but try to take things one day at a time. It seems that someone has been trying to oppose you every step of the way, but you're stronger than that now, aren't you my friend? Forms signed in the coming days help you realise that you're meant for big things. Be on time on Friday; a friendship depends on it. Phone me to find out what I think of recent dramas.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Something you have been worrying about may well be cancelled this week, but rather than feel good about this, you could end up feeling let down. Secretly you want to see your life shaken up so that you can move on to pastures new. Control the ride you're on, don't just be a passenger. You'll reach a far more satisfying destination if you do. Ring now to hear why this is a great week to make money.

0906 585 4368

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Everything seems to have been blown out of proportion recently, but it's time to let everyone else argue over the small things. To disagree over issues which can't be changed yet is counterproductive. Research, study and simply waiting and watching are your best tools as you enter February Cancer. Ring now. I have some advice for the future to share with you.

0906 585 4363

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Fun times are set to happen and this week you finally learn how to let down your hair and do what feels right instead of what just looks right to others. Family may prove hard to deal with, but the sooner you admit to them what you are and aren't willing to do, the sooner they'll stop applying such pressure. Give me a ring to hear why you can expect impromptu travel soon.

0906 585 4369

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

I can see that you've lost an awful lot of trust in close ones lately, but I'm not surprised given the way that many of the signs have been behaving. You will find yourself running around for everyone else this week with very few people willing to do the same in return for you. You'll find out why by Thursday, so keep your cool for now. Ring me so I can help you make life great again.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

You've said some things you now regret, but working out how to say sorry has proven harder than you thought, hasn't it Aquarius? Do it before the weekend is over and you'll see what benefits can come from respecting those you care for. Others are willing to travel miles and make enormous sacrifices if you offer an olive branch. Ring now. We need to talk about "that" confrontation.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

You have been taking a rather strange view of the events which have occurred. Try to take a step back before Wednesday and take a look at the bigger picture. It's the only way you'll start to realise what needs to be done and who you need to avoid to get your life back into some semblance of order. Aries faces give your career a boost midweek. Phone now, there's so much to talk about.

0906 585 4365

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

It matters what you wear to work this week and how you present yourself. Don't even think about being late as it will only come back on you. You'd be far better to leave yourself extra time and over-prepare as you'll be crossing paths with those who can change your career and financial status. Instant attractions see you doing something you've never done before. Phone now so I can tell you more.

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2 PETS

3 SERVICES

4 BUSINESS

5 ENTERTAINMENTS

6 HOLIDAYS

7 EDUCATION

8 PUBLIC NOTICES

9 RECRUITMENT

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11 PROPERTY

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2005 55	TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO D-4D T2. DIESEL. 7 SEATER. Silver. Superb local car. Approximately only 56000 recorded miles. 2.0 Diesel with 7 seats. Remote central locking. Aircon. PAS. Electric windows and door mirrors. Radio/CD. Alloys.Etc. Fantastic family diesel MPV. Lovely condition throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£4,950
2009 09	SEAT IBIZA ECOMOTIVE TDI 1400CC DIESEL. METALLIC GREY. 3Door. Superb small economical hatchback. NIL road tax. 2 owners from new. Good service record. Aircon. PAS Remote central locking. 2 Keys. Electric windows. Fantastic fuel economy. Sold with a new MOT and a full service. Vehicle has recently had a new cambelt fitted. HPI Clear.....	£4,950
2007 07	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXTREME. 3 Doors. Dark blue. Local car. 2 Owners. Approximately ONLY 36000 recorded miles. Alloys. PAS. Electric windows. Central locking. Radio/CD. Sold with a full service a new MOT and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£3,750
2004 04	TOYOTA AVENTIS T3-X 1.8. Metallic Blue. 5 door Hatchback. Local car. 2 owners from new. Good condition throughout. Aircon. PAS. Electric windows. Radio/CD. Very nice large family sized hatch. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI Clear.....	£2,295
2002 02	FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCi ESTATE, Black, Local car, PAS, Electric windows, Central locking, Radio/CD ETC, Sold with a new MOT, Full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI Clear.....	£1,695
2001 51	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 AUTOMATIC. 5 door. Silver. Local car. Central locking. Electric windows. PAS. Radio/CD. Very tidy for it's year. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£1,550
2004 04	FIAT PANDA 1.2 ELEGANZA. 5 doors. Blue. Great little car. Central locking. Electric windows. Electric door mirrors. Radio/CD. Very roomy and economical small hatchback. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£1,450
2001 51	NISSAN MICRA 1.0 VIBE. 5 doors. Metallic Blue. PAS. Radio/CD. Local car. Very tidy throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£1,050
1997 P	TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 ST COUPE, Turquoise Blue, Exceptional Condition, PAS, Alloys, Central Locking, Electric Windows, Sun Roof, Local Car, HPI Clear.....	£995
1995 N	NISSAN MICRA 1.3 AUTOMATIC. Green. MOT until June 2015. Very noisy gearbox but works OK	£525

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Personal contract hire offer on New Corsa Limited Edition 1.2, 3dr. red on orders received between 1 January 2015 and 1 April 2015, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £2,533, then 23 monthly rentals of £149.00. Excess annual miles over 8000 charged at 6.63ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. You will not own the car. For full specification and T&Cs contact your local Retailer: ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, BS16 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. #Applicants must hold a full, valid driving licence and be 18 years or over to qualify for a test drive. #MPG figures are official test data and may not reflect real driving results.

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Sharp-edged Kia is built with soul

By David Duffy
david.duffy@nqo.com

LET'S get the issue of its looks out of the way right away. To enthusiasts, the new Kia Soul looks squat, sporty and purposeful – to others it is just a box on wheels.

But anyone who writes off the Soul purely on its appearance is making a big mistake.

Not only is it bigger and roomier than the previous model, the brilliantly practical Korean-built Soul outperforms it in every way – better built, quieter and, a much classier drive.

Priced from about £12,600, all versions of the high-riding Soul, despite the 4x4 looks, are five-seaters with front-wheel-drive.

Available with a choice of two 1.6-litre engines, the much-improved ride quality and sharper handling is largely thanks to a new chassis based on that of the Kia cee'd. Designed and engineered in Germany, the Slovakian-built, 126-horsepower, turbodiesel engine offers the prospect of more than 50mpg in day-to-day use, combined with superbly eager performance.

Longer, wider and lower than the previous model, both the step-in point and hip points are

lower, making it easier to get in and out. Once inside there is more space for both passengers and luggage and the interior feels altogether more upmarket. The instrument panel, centre console and door panels have soft-touch facings, the steering wheel rim and gearlever knob are leather-covered and the fascia panel, door armrests and upper console cover have high-gloss black finishings.

Kia says the cabin has been made quieter thanks to liberal use of expansion foam, in the body cavities.

Standard features on every Soul, which is available in five trim levels, range from a DAB radio, a tyre pressure monitoring



The brilliantly-practical Kia Soul offers a classy ride. It is priced from £12,600

Auto facts

Model: Kia Soul Connect Plus
1.6 CRDi
Price: £17,500
Insurance group: 10
Fuel consumption (Combined): 56.6mpg
Length: 414cm/163in
Width: 180cm/71in
Luggage capacity: 12.5 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 11.9 gallons/54 litres
Warranty: 7 years/100,000 miles

system, keyless entry, air conditioning and six airbags.

The test model added the likes of Bluetooth and cruise control, satellite navigation and a reversing camera. Much more use are the electronic systems, which are designed to keep everyone safe, that range from anti-lock brakes and brake assist, to electronic stability control.

Another nice touch is the power steering system that has a choice of three settings.

And for a car with such square styling, the Soul offers a superbly well-rounded warranty.

Winterdrivingtips

Gentle touch is needed if ice strikes

ROAD SAFETY and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist is encouraging motorists to ensure they – and their vehicles – are ready for the potential challenges of driving in winter.

GEM chief executive David Williams offers five tips on coping with black ice:

■ Why is it called 'black' ice? Largely because it blends in very well with the road. Black ice is actually clear and colourless but it is invisible above the dark tarmac of the road.

■ How will I know if I'm driving on black ice? Your steering will feel light, you won't see tyre tracks on the road ahead, and there will be

next to no noise from tyres.

If I can't see it, how can I look out for black ice? Pay attention to your car thermometer. Black ice forms when the road surface temperature falls to zero or below.

But road surface temperature is usually three to four degrees lower than air temperature. That's why you may get an audible cold weather warning when your car thermometer shows 4C.

■ When and in what locations is black ice most likely to form? The most likely times for the forming of black ice are around dawn and in the late evening, when temperatures are usually at their lowest.

The most common locations for black ice are shaded or tree-covered parts of roads. Bridges freeze quickly so be particularly careful.

■ What should I do if I realise I'm on black ice?

Stay calm and let your car pass over the back ice. Gently lift your foot off the accelerator. Don't hit the brakes and be very gentle with your steering.

Take a look at the GEM e-Book on winter driving, which is available for download free of charge from motoringassist.com/winter-driving where you can also watch a video on how best to cope with winter driving.

In brief

■ THE AA has released its range of six road atlases for France and Europe, fully updated for 2015, in a variety of scales and sizes. Priced from £9.99 to £14.99 the largest scale is an A3 format atlas (4.5 miles to 1 inch) of France, that includes 22 city and town plans with a central city and regional plan of Paris including the Peripherique, road mapping of Corsica and a Channel-hopping guide including Channel tunnel terminal plans and port plans.

■ TICKETS are on sale for the Caravan, Camping & Motorhome Show, taking place from February 17-22 at the NEC in Birmingham. The event is the UK's largest start-of-season showcase for caravans, motorhomes, campervans, tents, trailer tents and folding caravans, caravan holiday homes and lodges, campsites and destinations, tow cars and 4x4s, accessories, awnings and porches. Visitors will be able to try driving with a caravan and free motorhome manoeuvring sessions. Tickets are available at caravancampingmotorhomeshow.co.uk or call 0844 581 1250.

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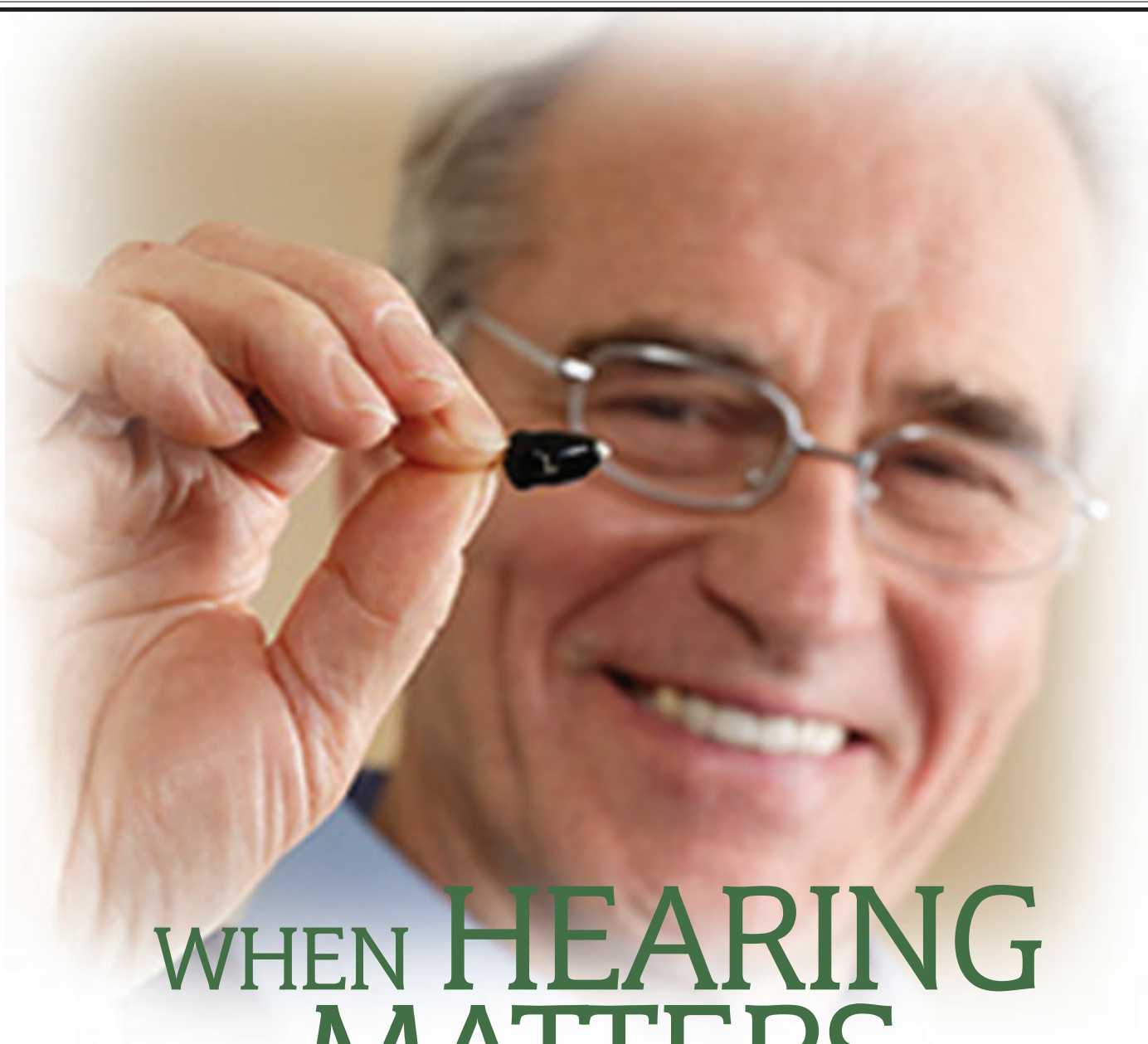
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